



The Joy of Francis

Ecce quam bonum et quam jucundum, habitare fratres in unum!

IN THIS ISSUE

Minister's Message	Pg 1
Help is on the Way	Pg 3
Formation: Way of Life	Pg 3
2011 Nat Formation Workshop	Pg 5
Formando El Formador	Pg 6
Hội thảo quốc gia về huấn luyện	Pg 6
평화와 선	Pg 7
Formation From NAFRA	Pg 8
Joy of Gathering in Chapter	Pg 10
Region Elections Jan., 2012	Pg 11
Regional Election Form	Pg 12
JPIC	Pg 13
2010 Regional Gathering	Pg 14
Region Retreat	Pg 16
Quinquennial Update	Pg 17
Deacon Dave Lawrence	Pg 18
Fund Raiser Cruise	Pg 18
Fund Raiser Cruise Flyer	Pg 19
2011 Regional Gathering	Pg 20
Korean Provincial Minister	Pg 21
LA Patronal Mass	Pg 21
Bequests	Pg 22
Region Officers Roster	Pg 23



St Francis Chapter Meeting, January 13 -15, 2011. In the foreground from left to right are Michelle Kim, SFO, National Councilor; Elaine Hedtke, SFO, National Vice-minister; and Fr. Lester Bach, O.F.M. Cap., Pastoral Visitor. See page 10.

Minister's Message

Hearts on Fire for the Lord!

LOOKING BACK - AND FORWARD!

Sylvia Paoli, SFO, Regional Minister



My brothers and sisters,

Because of personal problems of our newsletter editor, this will probably be the only newsletter we are able to get out this year. Therefore, with an election coming up in January, I'd like to take this opportunity to look back over the last three years, and perhaps to look forward a bit.

The Regional Executive Council (REC) began our term in 2009 by announcing a theme of *Hearts on Fire for the Lord!* Thanks to the research and work of Judith Mussatto, our secretary, we were able to

order and make available to everyone, refrigerator magnets (combined with a picture frame) with that theme printed on it in four languages. I hope that everyone has looked at that magnet every day and reminded themselves that we are a Gospel people and need to be such convinced and determined Gospel people that we live that Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ a little better each day and each day finds us with new and greater enthusiasm for our Gospel life.

Each year, the REC - along with the

Looking continued page 2



district liaisons and all of the Regional Spiritual Assistants and an occasional invited guest - has had a week-end retreat. That week-end together, early in each year, has given your elected council an opportunity to begin their year's work on a spiritual high note, as well as to have an opportunity to do some planning for the year and to bond with each other. It has made our work for you immensely more fruitful. I have regularly recommended to new councils that they do their best to plan a retreat for their council, for all the same reasons. Those who have done so will echo my comments on how much it helped the council to work together during the year

Over the three years we lost only one of our elected council - councilor Robert Lopez. He was replaced by Margarita Rodriguez, who was appointed councilor by the REC. Also serving on the REC has been Bob Murray, as the appointed Regional Formation Director. We also lost one of our Regional Spiritual Assistants, all of whom were appointed by the three Provincials of the OFMs, OFM Conventuals and OFM Capuchins. That was Anthony H.V. Le, who was forced to resign because of serious health problems. We still need to keep him in our prayers.

At our Chapter gathering in 2010, we were fortunate to have Bob "Fitz" Fitzsimmons, national formation director, spend the week-end with us and give us several sessions of ongoing formation, emphasizing the need for each and every member to *be on fire for the Lord*. At the Chapter in 2011, we had Visitation from NAFRA (which is discussed elsewhere in this newsletter), and included ongoing formation with Fr. Lester Bach. The Chapter in 2012 will be elections for the Region. I encourage all of you to be thinking and praying about those you would

like to have serve at the Region level. Remember that elections should be infused by the Holy Spirit and the Spirit should guide our nominations and our votes. Information about nominations and a form will be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

We had a presentation on the H₂O (water) project at our 2010 Chapter gathering, and fraternities have been diligently gathering funds for that project ever since. In 2010 our Region raised the most funds of any region in the U.S. for the water project, and it has continued to be an ongoing effort in most of our fraternities.

Remember that elections should be infused by the Holy Spirit and the Spirit should guide our nominations and our votes.

We have spent substantial time with local fraternities, far more than just the mandated visits. By the end of this year, 2011, we will, since January of 2009, have handled 32 elections and made 46 visits to fraternities. In 2009 we had two meetings with the outgoing LSA/F (Lay Spiritual Assistant/Formator) class and two with the incoming class. We have had six REC (Regional Executive Council) meetings each year, and over the three-year period, presented 15 formation seminars (three seminars each done once in each district). In 2010, four newly forming groups were elevated to EC status and two EC asked to become fraternities. Two fraternities were deactivated due to lack of membership. In 2010 two fraternities - one Korean and one Spanish - were canonically established, with their Mass of Establishment

celebrated by the OFM Provincial, and with the Provincial Spiritual Assistant also in attendance. Each year we have had a Regional Gathering. In 2010 the Regional Gatherings were done by language groups, at their request. We had a picnic in June of 2011 that was a Regional Gathering, and that was enjoyed by all who attended. The LSA/F class begun in 2010 started with 23 members and is going strong. .

Our major need continues to be more and better formation at every level, and more spiritual assistants. We expect to have a substantial number of certified Lay Spiritual Assistants from the current LSA/F class when it finishes, including Spiritual Assistants to serve all of our language communities. However, we still won't have enough to go around. In order to serve all of our forming groups, those on the REC who are Spiritual Assistants also serve local fraternities and forming groups. Formation has been listed as the number one priority in the world by CIOFS. Nine members of St. Francis Region attended the National Formation Workshop given in May by our National Formation Director and his team. We came home with a 460-page manual and a full CD of resource material. We have been working on it since then, and will begin formation workshops after the first of the year, to be attended by fraternity formation directors, their teams, AND their councils. Our annual retreat at Serra in May, 2012, will feature Bob Fitzsimmons, National Formation Director, and Fr. Richard Trezza, OFM, Spiritual Assistant to the national formation team and an active contributor to the two-year work of that team.

In the past three years, our Scholarship Fund has grown and we've been able to use it to send people to workshops and seminars and to bring speakers to our Region. We've established a translation



fund to help bring about timely translations for our language groups. While expenses for everything have increased steadily - or sometimes by leaps and bounds - especially gasoline, making mileage our single biggest yearly expense, we've still managed to keep our expenses below our income each year and will continue to work in that direction.

I have had a wonderful council to work with over the last three years, and I feel privileged in having been able to serve you during that time. It has been a true joy in my life and I hope I've been able to convey some of that joy to each of you. I hope to continue to be able to serve the Order, whether again as Minister or in whatever other capacity our Lord wishes for me.



Help is on the Way

Rock De Spain, SFO, CSRA

October of 2000 seems like yesterday at times. That is when I became Regional Minister of St. Francis Region. Lord, so many changes. New Constitutions in December of 2000. New National Statutes in 2002 (approved by Rome in July, 2003). New Regional Governance Norms to comply with the new Constitutions and National Statutes.



However, here I sit in 2011, finishing my third year as one of the Regional Spiritual Assistants, and realize the scariest part of this journey has been the loss of Spiritual Assistants due to age, death and retirements. We now have more fraternities without Spiritual Assistants (SA) than those that do have. This has created many problems for

those who are without. I won't dwell on that because help is on the way.

Fr. Steve Gross, OFM Conv., with the permission of the three Provincial Ministers of the First Order, started the first class of Lay Spiritual Assistants (LSAs) in January of 2005 and certified SAs in July 2006. The second class began right away and several more SAs were certified in 2009. Most of us in the first two classes are hard at work doing our best. However, there is still that void of SAs for fraternities that is unacceptably too large.

*Help is on the way.
Right now, we have the
largest class of SAs well
on their way to bring
help to our Region.*

Help is on the way. Right now, we have the largest class of SAs well on their way to bring help to our Region. They have been hard at work learning what Formation is all about, plus the wisdom to serve as SA. We were blessed with the new Formation material and topics that CIOFS and NAFRA wanted us to add this year to the Guidelines to Initial Formation list of statutory topics to cover in Orientation, Inquiry and Candidacy in St. Francis Region. CIOFS and NAFRA, job well done. Our Formation programs are now more complete than ever. The new material will be coming to you soon. Much to do in the way of logistics, translations, printing etc. It will be worth the wait.

I will not go so far as to tell you when certification will take place, but I will say this "they will be ready when they are ready."

I love this job even more.

Your brother in Christ and Francis,

Rock



Formation Our Way of Life

Robert Murray, SFO Formation Director

Have you ever wondered what Jesus was really saying to Nicodemus in Chapter 3 of John's Gospel? Obviously, Nicodemus did not understand Jesus, and possibly being facetious, Nicodemus asks if a man can re-enter the womb and be born again. He did not realize that Jesus was asking him to re-form his life; to repent, to convert, to become a new man in the eyes of God.



We each were mysteriously formed in the womb and, once born, our bodies continued being formed and transformed bringing us to adulthood. Along that path to adulthood we grew in stature, knowledge, understanding, wisdom and faith. Even today, our transformation is not complete - we continue to be transformed physically, mentally and spiritually, thus becoming new individuals each day. We are not the same today as we were yesterday, yet becoming the men and women God has called us to become. We are being formed and re-formed in God's image each day.

St. Francis became aware that change was necessary in his life, that he was called to follow Christ by living the Gospel. As we follow St. Francis' lead, Secular Franciscans, as well as the Friars and the Poor Clares, strive to follow Christ wholeheartedly. Our respective Rules require us to read and know the Gospel and then incorporate its message and values into our lives. As we live

Formation continued page 4



Formation *continued from page 3*

this commitment we allow the Gospel message to be seen and experienced in the world today.

Like St. Francis, we Secular Franciscans take change in our life, this growth in our faith life, seriously. We work toward it through a process we call FORMATION.

This formation process first began when we wondered “who are the Secular Franciscans and what are they all about?” From that time onward through Orientation, Inquiry and Candidacy, FORMATION became our way of life. Indeed, formation did not stop following our Profession. Our formation is never complete. It continues for a lifetime. It is an essential part of our lives.

By following our Rule of Life, we drink in the “life giving” Word of God. We drink the “life-giving” Blood of Christ in the Eucharist so that Christ may live in us. Just as “life giving” water flowed from the rock at Massah and Meribah (EX. 17:1-7), Formation is “life giving” because it waters us allowing us to grow and change in the eyes of God.

Every fraternity, at each level, is to have a formation program. Each fraternity, (local, regional, national, international), offers “On-Going” Formation during its regular meetings. Additionally, local fraternities offer “Initial Formation” to those who are considering a vocation to the Order.

Each fraternity’s Council is responsible for formation within its fraternity. Each fraternity has a Formation Director (or Master of Formation) to oversee the fraternity’s formation program. Additionally, the Regional Executive Council (REC) is responsible for formation within its territory. Similarly, a National Executive Council (NEC) is always concerned about formation within its National boundaries, and at CIOFS (the International Executive

Council) formation is at the top of its list of priorities for the entire Order.

During the past few years it became quite apparent to CIOFS (International) that Formation within the Order was inadequate worldwide, thus spurring a tremendous effort to correct the deficiency. After several years’ work, the initial effort to build additional formation material to meet the need was finally completed. This material was then forwarded to the various National Fraternities so that it would be incorporated worldwide!

Here in the U.S.A., our NEC (National Executive Council) delegated the National Formation Director and the National Formation Team to write, organize and arrange the material for use in this country.” This required a considerable effort by very dedicated and committed Secular Franciscans, and in May of this year, the material was presented to Formation Directors, Spiritual Assistants and Regional Councils from around the nation at Our Lady of the Snows in Illinois. More than 130 attended, secular and religious. Ten were from our Region! And what a meeting it was! It was invigorating! It was exciting! And it was... *WOW !!!*

The National Formation Team felt their important resulting product should have a name... perhaps even an acronym... They called it “The FUN Book”, in remembrance of St. Francis’ words of “For Up to Now... we have done nothing”. Currently, work is underway in St. Francis Region to prepare teams to present this FUN Book’s material to each of our local fraternity Councils, Formation Directors and Spiritual Assistants. Our initial hope was to bring the excitement and wonder of this material to a council near you sometime in the fall of this year, but realistically, it is much more likely to begin early in 2012. Why? There is Sooooo much for the presenters to understand and

assimilate. Not only that, the “FUN Book” is not yet complete! Additional material is being added to it periodically. Whew! Much to do to bring it to you!

As mentioned above, the REC is responsible for formation within its Region. In June of this year, at our St. Francis Region’s REC meeting, a vote was taken to mandate that this material be required for profession... *in addition to...* the requirements found in our “Guidelines for Initial Formation” (*the official document mandating the minimum formation requirements at each stage of initial formation in the USA*).

The vote was unanimous and, yes, Orientation, Inquiry and Candidacy will each now take a little longer. However, those to eventually be professed will have a much better understanding of what it means *to be* Secular Franciscan. And, as I said earlier, *this additional formation is required for profession in our Region*. The additional time spent in Initial Formation will be well worth it as Secular Franciscans around the world will “be on the same page” because our formation will have become more comprehensive.

But there is more! Across the nation it is felt that the resources found in the Fun Book should be incorporated into every fraternity’s On-Going Formation Program. Due to long-term poor formation standards world-wide, our Order has missed so much over the years and, now, we have an opportunity to recapture and deepen our understanding of what our Rule and documents call us to in the life of the Church.

We have been blessed by God with our leadership at CIOFS, the NEC and our REC. They have worked hard for us. Now it’s our turn. So, look for it! It’s coming! It’s time for F.U.N.! As St. Francis said as he lay dying:

“For Up till Now (FUN) we have done nothing”. Let us begin again!



2011 National Formation Workshop

Robert L. Herbeline, SFO, Vice-Minister



The day had arrived. We were at the National Formation Workshop, *Forming the Formator*, at Our Lady of the Snows Shrine in Belleview, Illinois. All 120 of us were there from all over the

United States, from National, Regional and Local levels.

This week is the result of over nine years of preparation. In 2002, CIOFS made Formation *its* top priority. The project led to International Formation Courses in Rome during 2006 and 2007 attended by International Councilors and National Formators from all over the world. We were able to obtain some of the materials, and with the call from CIOFS to local SFO to pray for, prepare for and provide input for the 2008 International Chapter, we prepared the CIOFS project which was presented in fraternities across St. Francis Region in the Spring and Summer of 2008. The theme was *Profession and Our belonging to a worldwide order*. This theme was continued in the monthly ongoing formation topics from CIOFS for 2010. Meanwhile, CIOFS gathered the course materials, expanded them and prepared an Initial Formation Manual.

Formation remained as the top priority at the 2008 International Chapter. The Formation Manual will be expanded as additional topics are developed and will be extended beyond Initial Formation to Ongoing Formation.

CIOFS asked each national fraternity to take the formation materials presented by International and prepare methods

(workshops, manuals, etc.) to convey the formation materials to their regions and regions to their local fraternities. NAFRA's formation team took on the project of preparing a manual and workshop to train formators in each region. At the NAFRA chapter meeting in 2009, we received a sample of some of their work. After two years of preparation, they were ready.

The concept was simple. To have uniformity in the SFO, there needed to be uniformity in formation. The purpose of the International courses and manual was to train national formators in content and methodology. The national formators were to train the regional formators, adapting materials and methods applicable to their nation. The regional formators are to train the local formators, adapting to their regions. The expected result: *all* SFO members throughout the world would have a common identity.

Now we are at the workshop. We are given a large manual and a CD. The manual is about 460 pages. It is called the *FUN* manual from its title, *For Up to Now*. Wow! Surely we are not going to go through this in 2 or 3 days. We quickly found out that the manual is a resource covering the essential topics needed for Initial Formation. Each section varies in form and content as sections were written by different authors. We learned that we can use each section and supplement them with other resources in preparing our formation lessons. The accompanying CD contained many additional documents, many of which we have seen in the past. It is a nice collection of documents in one place. We also have many formation books written during recent years that are available for use. We are here to learn how to put the materials together and methods of presentations.

The workshop included six presentations covering four topics: Formation;

Ecclesiology; Vocation, Mission and Charism; Profession (2 sessions); and Franciscan Theology (2 sessions).

Each presenter used a different style. Some used power point presentations, some used handouts, some held a dialog with the group as they went through. Several shared personal experiences. We saw how different presentation methods had different effects and how the type can depend on the kind of material being presented. All presenters were very effective and well received. They showed careful preparation and a thorough knowledge of their topic, something we all need to keep in mind.

In most cases, presentations were followed by small group discussions and summaries by each group. Groups consisted of about 6 persons. For two discussions we were asked to divide a table into groups of 2 and 3 persons. This made for better sharing. Then these smaller groups shared with the other groups around a table.

We had social and sharing time at the workshop as well. We were on equal levels, regardless of our titles or positions – those attending were regional ministers, regional formators, local formators, and others from all levels of the SFO. We were all there to learn to improve formation in our organizations. We formed a fraternity of 120 persons who ate, talked and shared our lives and thoughts with one another. That was a part of the lesson in formation as well.

Before returning home, we were given our assignment. We are to bring the training we received back to our regions by training our local formators. Each region is to work out its own method. Only after training was the *FUN* manual to be distributed. In St. Francis Region, we are preparing workshops for local fraternity formation teams, councils and spiritual assistants to attend. Workshops will be announced later.



El Taller Nacional de Formación Formando El Formador

National Formation Workshop, **Forming the Formator**, by Margarita Rodriguez, SFO, Regional Councilor



El Taller Nacional de Formación “Formando El Formador” se vino a cabo el fin de semana 12-15 de mayo de 2011. El “FUN” Manual fue presentado en el Relicario de nuestra señora de las Nieves en Belleville, Illinois. Según nuestro ministro nacional, Tom Bello los 128 franciscanos seculares que se reunieron allí fue la reunión nacional más grande de franciscanos seculares desde el Quinquenio de 2007. Cada región fue representada menos el estado de Hawái.

El grupo incluía 3 miembros del Concilio de NAFRA, 3 de los 4 ayudantes espirituales nacionales y muchos de los directores de formación de diferentes regiones, ayudantes espirituales, otros miembros del equipo de formación y miembros de fraternidades locales. Nuestra región tuvo la dicha de tener la mayoría de representantes allí. Nueve en todo fueron presente gracias a nuestro concilio regional y el fondo de becas que estableció hace un año atrás. Y, gracias a ello, muy pronto nosotros le traeremos nuestra experiencia a usted en talleres.

El acontecimiento fue la presentación del nuevo manual nacional de recursos de formación que fue comisionada hace dos años por la fraternidad nacional y fue evolucionada de materiales del CIOFS (la comisión de formación del concilio OFS internacional). La información es significativa y emocionante porque

ello incluye temas que complementarán nuestro plan de formación proporcionando temas esenciales que han faltado en la mayor parte de nuestra formación inicial pero que ahora debemos incluir en nuestra formación continua.

FUN significa las siglas en inglés de las palabras que son dichas ser las últimas palabras de nuestro Francisco antes de su muerte. “Hasta Ahora... no hemos hecho nada” Una buena noticia es que el manual se está traduciendo al español y esperamos compartir los materiales en talleres muy pronto.

Para mí el compartir y experimentar esta información con nuestra familia franciscana de todas partes del país fue lo más emocionante. Francisco nos enseña que tenemos que vivir el evangelio y eso fue lo que compartimos ese fin de semana Orar, comer, reír y estudiar juntos en un ambiente lleno del Espíritu Santo fue lo más bonito.



Franciscan Print Resources

Franciscan Resources

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Hội thảo quốc gia về huấn luyện

National Formation Workshop, **Forming the Formator**, by Anthony Tuấn Cao, SFO, Regional Councilor

Từ ngày 12 đến ngày 15 tháng năm năm 2011 tại “Our Lady of Snows,” Belleville Illinois đã diễn ra một cuộc hội thảo cấp quốc gia về chương trình huấn luyện.



Người tham dự khóa hội thảo đa số là các trường và phó phục vụ, huấn viên học tập của các huynh đệ đoàn trong nước Hoa Kỳ tổng cộng khoảng hơn 120 người. Dĩ nhiên là có sự hiện diện của hội đồng phục vụ quốc gia.

Miền Thánh Phanxicô của chúng ta có tất cả 9 người tham dự gồm có cha Stephen Gross đại diện Hiệp hội trợ úy (CNSA), Sylvia Paoli trường phục vụ miền, Bob Herbelin phó phục vụ miền, Bob Murray trưởng ban huấn luyện miền, Rock DeSpain và Armando Lomeli trợ úy miền, Dan Abalos thành viên của ban huấn luyện miền, Margie Rodriguez đại diện người Mỹ, Samuel Lee đại diện người Đại Hàn và Tuấn Cao đại diện người Việt Nam.

Chúng tôi chia làm nhiều nhóm để di chuyển bằng đường hàng không, chị Sylvia và Bob Herlin thì đi bằng máy bay riêng của chị, riêng Bob Murray vì tình trạng sức khỏe không thể đi máy bay được nên phải dùng xe lửa đi từ Orange County đến Illinois.



Khóa hội thảo được tổ chức bởi hội đồng phục vụ quốc gia dòng Phan Sinh tại Thế tại Hoa Kỳ và điều khiển bởi Ủy Ban Huấn Luyện Quốc Gia để giới thiệu chương trình huấn luyện mới của CIOFS được gọi tắt là FUN (*For up to now*) để dùng huấn luyện cho giai đoạn huấn luyện khởi đầu.

Mỗi ngày chúng tôi đều được học 4 đề tài và sau mỗi đề tài đều có chia nhóm thảo luận. Sau mỗi bài học chúng tôi chia qua nhóm khác để có dịp quen biết thêm anh chị em mới của những miền khác cũng như để sự thảo luận được phong phú hơn.

Tất cả mọi người đều học hỏi, sinh hoạt, tham gia phục vụ trong tinh thần yêu thương giúp đỡ cho nhau nên mặc dầu chương trình rất là nặng nề nhưng chúng tôi không cảm thấy mệt mỏi luôn hăng say đóng góp trong mọi công tác.

Ngoài ra chúng tôi cũng có những giờ nghỉ ngơi để viếng thăm quang cảnh tuyệt đẹp của nơi này.

Chúng tôi cũng được tham dự Thánh Lễ vào sáng thứ sáu 5/13 và chiều thứ bảy 5/14.

Sáng Chúa nhật sau khi ăn sáng và đọc kinh sáng, chúng tôi có thảo luận đúc kết buổi hội thảo.

Mọi người ra về với tinh thần hăng say và hứa khi về đến nhà sẽ họp với nhau ngay để phác họa chương trình sinh hoạt trong miền của mình để có thể giới thiệu chương trình FUN này đến từng Huynh Đệ Đoàn trong phạm vi trách nhiệm của mình.

Tóm tắt bởi,

Anthony Tuấn Cao, SFO.



평화와 선

안녕하세요. 저는 샌퍼난도 벨리 소재의 토마스 모어 형제회 소속 이준성 사무엘 입니다.

저는 지난 5월12일부터 15일까지 Belleville, Illinois주에 있는 “눈의 성모님 (Our Lady of Snows)을 기념하는 순례지에서 열렸던 국가 형제회가 주최 했던 양성 세미나에 다녀 왔습니다.

남가주의 성 프란치스코 지구 형제회는 이번 국가 양성 세미나에 참석할 각 언어별 형제회들 중 한국어권 대표로 저를 초청하여 주시였습니다. 또한 이번 양성 세미나에 미주 전국에서 모여든 각 지구 형제회 대표들과 함께 기도하고, 공부하며 형제애를 나누었던 저의 체험을 한인 재속 프란치스칸들과 나누어 주시기를 부탁하여 이렇게 글로 인사를 드립니다.

첫 번째로 비록 언어는 다르지만 양성 세미나에 참석했던 많은 분들과 함께 했던 2박 3일간은 기쁨과 평화가 가득한 분위기였고 서로를 좀더 알기위해 그리 많은 시간이 필요치 않았습니니다. 이유는 프란치스칸 생활 양식을 산다는 공통점 때문이었을 것입니다. 이렇듯 프란치스칸 성소를 사는 사람들의 모임에는 나이도, 성별도, 언어도 장애거리가 되지 않는다는 것을 새롭게 느끼고 왔습니다.

두 번째로는 이번 양성 세미나의 주제였던 ‘FUN’ 이란 제목의 양성 참고서에 관하여 느낀 점을 나누고 싶습니다. 국제 형제회에서 발간하여 배포한 이번 참고서는 이전의 양성 책자들이나 지침에서 다루지 못했던 점들을 첨가한 양성 담당자의 양성을 돕기 위한 종합 참고서라고 생각 하면 될듯합니다. 방대한 내용이 담긴 이번 양성 참고서는 각급 형제회의 양성 담당자들에게 참으로 많은 도움이 될것이고 전세계 모든 재속 프란치스칸들이 공통적인 양성 참고서를 갖게 된 첫번째 사례가 될것 입니다. 그리고 한국어 번역을 위해 미국 국가형제회 번역 위원회에서 현재 8명의 한인 프란치스칸 형제자매들께 번역을 위임하여 작업중 입니다. 재속 프란치스칸에게 양성이 얼마나 중요한 것인지를 다시 한번 일깨워 준 체험이 있습니다.

세 번째로는 남가주 성 프란치스코 지구 형제회 평의회에 감사를 드리고 싶습니다. 한국어 권의 형제회들을 배려하는 차원에서 개인 비용 없이 장학금으로 제가 이번 세미나에 다녀오게 해주신 것에 감사를 드립니다. 또한 미주내 각 주에서 온 지구형제회 들내에도 영어 외의 언어권에 계신 형제회들도 있었지만 소수 민족 언어권 형제회를 이렇듯 배려한 지구는 이곳 남가주 성 프란치스코 지구가 유일하였습니다. 참으로 고맙고 감사 한일입니다. 끝으로 앞으로 발간될 이번 양성 참고서를 모든 한인 양성 담당자님 들께서는 사랑해 주시고 이것을 준비한 모든 전세계 재속 프란치스칸 형제들의 노고를 생각하시고 이 참고서로 새롭게 프란치스칸 성소를 찾으시려는 분들께 좋은 안내자가 되시길 기도 드립니다.



FORMATION FROM NAFRA

Sylvia Paoli, SFO

Nine people from the St. Francis Region, along with Fr. Steve Gross, O.F.M. Conv., traveled to St. Louis, MO in May for the long-awaited National Formation Workshop based on the materials provided to the national fraternities by CIOFS after the International Chapter of Elections in 2008. It was an intense four days of ongoing formation for all in attendance, which included not only a representation of our National Executive Council, and regional ministers and formation directors, but even some local ministers and formation directors. We came away with a 460-page printed manual, and a CD with even more on it. We had told many of you that we did not know what we would receive and were waiting for the workshop. What we received was resource material - not a "formation book" to be used in initial formation. Even with the four-day program, there were only presentations on about half the material in the manual.

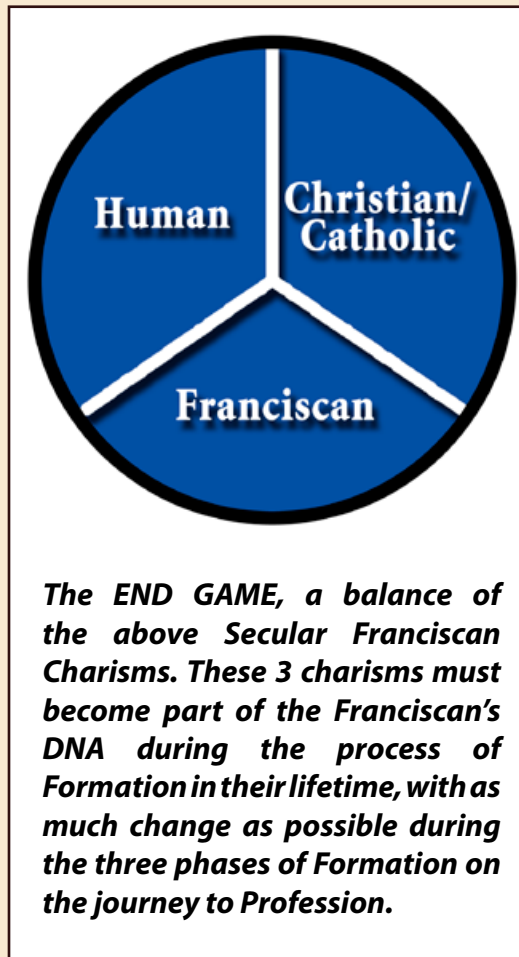
We have been busy working on putting together an appropriate workshop program from this material ever since we returned. Our plans, if approved by the new council, are to begin workshops after the Chapter of Elections in January. They will probably be scheduled in each district, so that no one has a great distance to travel. ALL fraternity formation directors, formation teams, and councils should plan to attend.

The workshop in St. Louis was billed as "Forming the Formators", and there was no doubt left that our job was to come home and get this information into the hands of local formators, whose job, then, is to get it to all members of St. Francis Region. To present this much material is a massive undertaking, and will be done in small pieces.

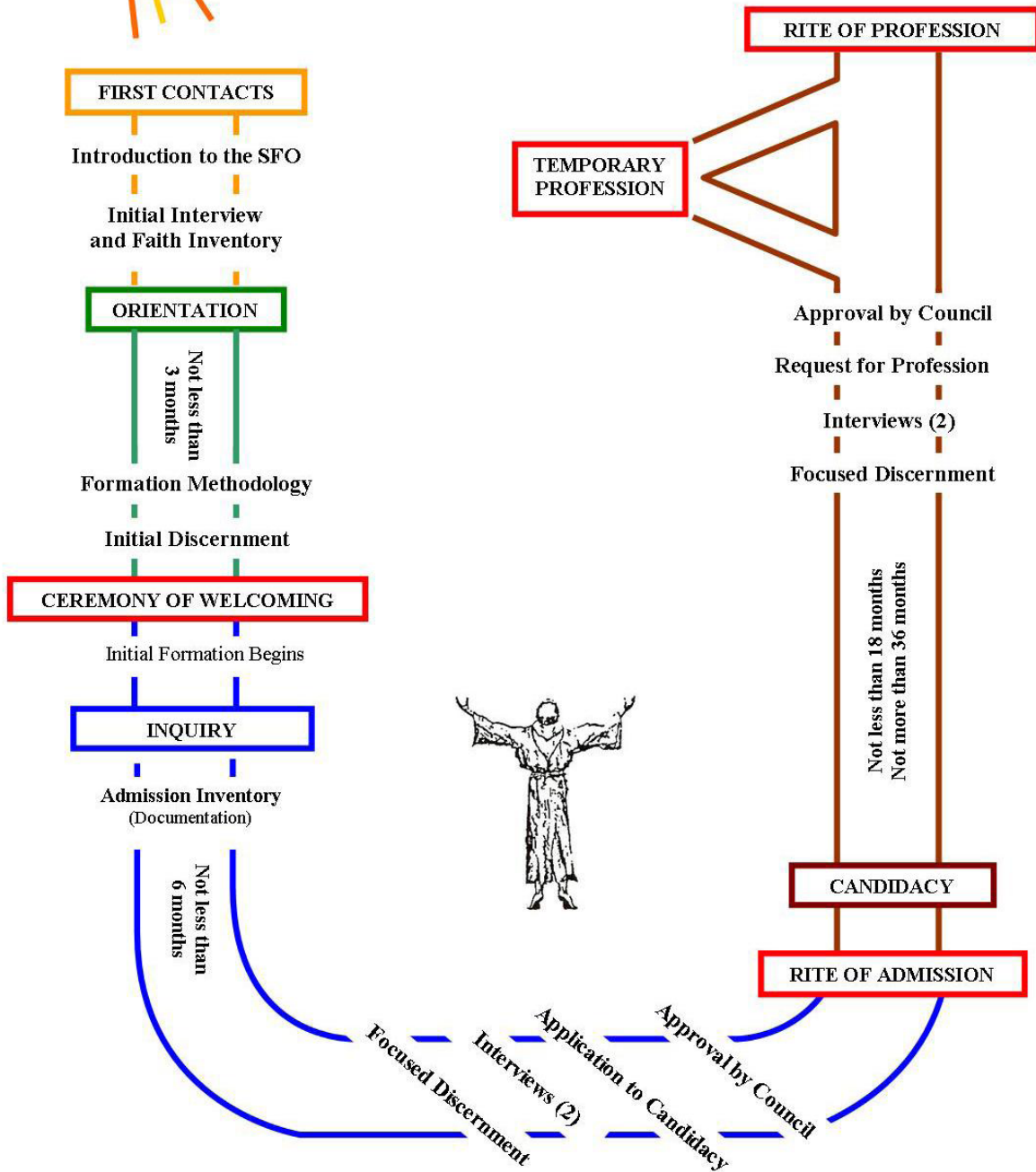
Below is the beginning of our approach to forming a Franciscan person, shown in a circle. One is first a human being. We are also a Christian Catholic human being. Along the journey moving through

those first two pieces of the pie come Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation and, for many of us, the Sacrament of Matrimony. During the time we are moving through the second piece of the pie, we begin our journey towards becoming a Secular Franciscan, starting with Orientation, then Inquiry, and finally, after much discernment to know that we have a vocation to the SFO, Candidacy. When we are professed we have just barely made out way into the beginning of the third piece of the pie. The rest of our lives will be devoted, though daily conversion and ongoing formation, to becoming more and more the Gospel person we are called to be.

Put another way, we can follow our Pathway to Profession shown in the second chart (*next page*), starting with First Contacts and moving along the road to the Rite of Profession. Notice the emphasis on discernment all along the road to Profession. And then, once we reach Profession, that is just the beginning of the next road that takes us through the rest of our lives. At that point, we have just moved into the third piece of the pie in the circle. With really good formation, that lifestyle that just begins at Profession will take each of us closer and closer to the heart of Jesus as we move through life. The manual we received is called the FUN manual, entitled, *For Up to Now (we have done nothing)*. What a model for living!



PATHWAY TO PROFESSION





ANNUAL CHAPTER - JOY OF GATHERING IN CHAPTER

by Sylvia Paoli, SFO, Regional Minister

On the week-end of January 13-15, 2011, the Regional Fraternity gathered at Marywood Retreat Center for a week-end of celebrating our Franciscan lives. The Regional Fraternity is composed of the minister of each local fraternity in the Region plus the Regional Executive Council. Also present were the leaders of all the forming groups and emerging communities, the heads of appointed committees, and four visitors from the National Fraternity (NAFRA). The official visitors from NAFRA were Arturo Villerreal, Councilor, from New Mexico, the delegated Fraternal Visitor, and Fr. Lester Bach, O.F.M. Cap., Pastoral Visitor, from Wisconsin. In addition, Michelle Kim, Councilor, from New York, and Elaine Hedtke, Vice-minister, from Washington state, attended.

Friday evening was a great time of renewing friendships with all our brothers and sisters from other fraternities. After Evening Prayer

and dinner, while the Regional Executive Council met with the Visitors, the rest of the Regional Fraternity and the many guests attending heard presentations by Ray Hardwick, Chairman of JPIC (Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation), along with Diane Halal and Anne Killian, both of whom had attended the conference in June



Arturo Villerreal, SFO, NAFRA Councilor, from New Mexico

at Loretto, PA where JPIC was the theme. A lively social time followed.

On Saturday morning, after morning prayer and breakfast, the Region did a little business, approving the Minutes from the 2010 Chapter, hearing the treasurer's report for the 2010 year, and being presented with the proposed 2011 budget. The remainder of the morning the Visitors met with the local ministers, committee chairmen, district liaisons, and guests. The Regional Executive Council took that opportunity to meet together, part of the time with Councilor Michelle Kim.

After lunch, the Regional Minister and Regional Spiritual Assistant Rock DeSpain gave their year-end reports. Then we all shared a wonderful time of ongoing formation given by Fr. Lester. The later part of the afternoon was devoted to break-out groups, with fraternities in each district meeting together to discuss Franciscan events and goals in each district, the language groups meeting together or with their

Chapter continued page 11



districts, and Fr. Lester meeting with the current Lay Spiritual Assistant/Formator class, and other attending spiritual assistants. An inspirational Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr. Lester came just before dinner. In the evening, we heard the reports from the break-out groups - all of whom had some great ideas for the coming year. Among other things, a committee of four was appointed to plan a regional gathering this spring or early summer for the entire region.

Sunday morning prayer was a beautiful ecumenical service prepared (as were all the liturgies) by Deacon Lou Rocha of Immaculate Conception fraternity in San Diego and Gerri Merchant, of Saint Francis & Clare emerging community in Hemet. After approval of the budget for 2011, Ron Wakefield, the band director who has taken his music ministry into the children's hospitals and homeless shelters, was presented with the 1st Annual St. Francis Region Peace Award. A presentation by Georgeann Lovett, Director of Respect Life, Justice and Peace, for the Diocese of Orange, followed, and everyone was given the opportunity to ask questions about programs in the Orange Diocese and others, and to sign up for e-mail information from the California Catholic Conference in order to keep abreast of what is happening in Sacramento that impacts on the Church - us.

After a period of time for round table discussions including ideas for the future, discussions on information from higher councils and other relevant topics, the entire fraternity heard closing remarks from Fr. Lester and Arturo, as well as from Elaine and Michelle. The Chapter was

officially closed with prayer at about noon. Immediately afterward, the Korean communities gathered for an afternoon with Michelle Kim.

It was an inspirational week-end, I think all who attended will agree. For those who have never attended a Chapter gathering, may I urge you to consider it for next year. If you can't come for the entire week-end, consider coming on Saturday. The entire Lay Spiritual Assistant/Formator class attended on Saturday, and a number of them returned on Sunday because they found it so inspiring.

Your regional council thanks all of you for your consistent diligence in making the Gospel come alive for yourselves, your families, and all with whom you come in contact. We thank all of those whose efforts contributed to the successful Chapter gathering, without whose work it would not have happened.



Ron Wakefield, band director, presented with the 1st Annual St. Francis Region Peace Award presented during Chapter.

Regional Elections in January, 2012

Sylvia Paoli, SFO, Regional Minister

Time really flies when you're having fun, and I've had a wonderful three years as your minister. Rock used to say "I love this job", and I know exactly what he meant! It is such a joy to visit brothers and sisters all over the Region, to share with you from the heart, to break bread together, to laugh together, and sometimes to cry together. It's hard to believe that three years has passed so quickly, but in January we will have a Chapter of Elections. We don't know yet who the Presider from NAFRA will be, but if NAFRA is doing what we're doing - trying to save money by sending the closest people - it might well be Elaine Hedtke who visited us at our Chapter meeting in 2011.

A nominating committee has been appointed, consisting of Bill Mussatto of Holy Spirit Fraternity, Dan Abalos of San Juan Capistrano Fraternity, and Ed Gordon of St. Louis the King Fraternity. A nomination form is included in this edition of the *Joy of Francis* (next page). The deadline for your nomination form to reach Bill Mussatto is November 1, 2011. Bill's address is on the nomination form. That gives the nominating committee only one month to check each nominee's eligibility for office, to send and receive an acceptance from each nominee, and to get the nominating list back to the REC for publication to all of the Region. So please talk about the elections in your fraternities, and get your nominations in.

I would remind everyone that all appointed positions are vacated at the time of elections. The new council will fill those appointive positions.



SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

ST. FRANCIS REGION

NOMINATION PROPOSAL

I nominate:

(Name)

(Fraternity)

For the office:

Nominated by:

(Name)

(Fraternity)

(Date)

Please list the proposed nominee's address:

Telephone #s: _____

E-mail address: _____

Return to Bill Mussatto NO LATER THAN November 1, 2011, at:

e-mail: mussatto@acm.org Note in "Subject" line: Regional Elections

Mail: Bill Mussatto
276 E. Green St.
Claremont, CA 91711-5026 [Note in l.h. corner: Regional Elections]

JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION - JPIC



JPIC has incorporated most of the previous “commissions”, and encompasses our Rule, articles 15 through 18. Just as it took us years to finally become active with the commissions, we are not yet doing very well with JPIC. Many fraternities do not even have a JPIC chairman. Since it encompasses such a big part of our rule, we need to take it more seriously and become more involved in all aspects of justice, peace and integrity of creation.

Those are very broad topics that include so very many of today’s major issues:

immigration, affordable housing, environment, death penalty, abortion, hunger - both here and abroad, child abuse, child abandonment, fair trade, police brutality, and much more. Many of your fraternities are actively involved in ministries that fall under the JPIC category, without even being aware that they do. You need a JPIC chairman so that reports of those activities can be kept and shared with others.

Our national chairman of JPIC - Kent Ferris - has been holding almost monthly Webinars in which anyone can participate. NAFRA has been working with Catholic Relief Services on a theme this year of “Catholics Confront Global Poverty.” You can view all of the past ones at the following websites:

Link to webinar #1: <http://ecom.catholicrelief.org/p23441617/>

Link to webinar #2: <http://ecom.catholicrelief.org/p47078713/>

In Lieu of links to webinar #3: http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/globalpoverty/ccgp_podcasts.shtml (please watch podcasts on CCGP and International Assistance)

Link to webinar #4: <http://ecom.catholicrelief.org/p74812953/>

Link to webinar #5: <http://ecom.catholicrelief.org/p90319236/>

Link to webinar #6: <http://ecom.catholicrelief.org/p12131884/>

Link to webcast #7: <http://ecom.catholicrelief.org/r89269597/>

If you are interested in participating, or knowing more about JPIC, the following is available for you:

Catholics Confront Global Poverty website – www.usccb.org/sdwp/globalpoverty/

Sign up for Catholics Confront Global Poverty (online) –

http://actioncenter.crs.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ccgp_signup

Sign up for Catholics Confront Global Poverty with your Cell Phone! – text “**CCGP**” to the number **30644**.

Because this is such an important part of who we are as Secular Franciscans, I urge everyone to get involved - both individually and as a fraternity.



Saint Francis Region Gatherings 2010



The 2010 Gathering for St Francis Region was split by language groups. The English-language gathering (above) at San Juan Capistrano emphasized Formation. We were challenged in the first talk to look at what it means to have a Vocation to the Secular Franciscan Order and what that implies for our lives. The second talk addressed Lay Spirituality both from a Vatican II and Franciscan perspective. The final talk asked us to deal with the question, *What is a Fraternity?* After each talk, we broke up into small groups and discussed questions designed to help us address these questions in concrete terms, as we live, or should live our lives. About two hundred Seculars attended, including the Secular Franciscan Lay Spiritual Assistant and Formation classes.



Vietnamese Language Gathering, 2010

On October 9th, 2010, the Vietnamese Secular Franciscan Order gathered at Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside. We have total of 50 members from the St. Claire, St. Agnes and Vietnamese Martyrs from Orange County and St. Anthony of Padua from San Diego.

This was the first time all the Vietnamese SFO members got together to pray, study, discuss everything in the

Vietnamese language. Everybody was so happy because they could understand and talk about the subjects presented more deeply; they also had a chance to share their thoughts freely because they did not have to struggle against a language barrier.

At the gathering we had a chance to make more friends and had a feeling of a growing bond with the other fraternities.



We ended the day with a Mass of Thanksgiving at 3 p.m. All the Vietnamese SFO members were so happy about this form of gathering and we all hope that they can have it again every year.

Peace and all good,

Anthony Tuan Cao, SFO





Korean-Language Gathering, 2010

The Korean-Language group (*picture on the left*) met at the Carmelite Center in La Habra on Sunday, October 24th. There were about 120 SFOs from 9 Korean speaking fraternities. There were the same three presentations as in the English session. The Mass at the end was celebrated by Fr. James Kim, OFM Conv.



Spanish-Language Gathering, 2010

On October 24 2010, we celebrated our first ever Spanish Franciscan Day of Gathering. Santa Ana supported by the marvelous hospitality of the recently-established fraternity of Immaculate Heart of Mary Fraternity.

We heard three presentations (the same topics we heard at our English Gathering Day in September) on the Vocation, the Spirituality of the Laity and the Mission of the Church and the Life in the Fraternity. These were given by three students of the Lay Spiritual Assistants/Formation Directors Class of 2010-2011.

In summary we were reminded that we were all called into our Franciscan life directly from God and that as laity our call is to minister in and to the world and that the mission of the Church becomes our mission within our secular spirituality; through our Franciscan profession (an extension of our Baptism) we are called to fraternal life in the Charism of St. Francis where we receive, live and are nurtured through our Rule and Constitutions (revised in light of the documents of Vatican II on the Laity) "to go and build a more fraternal world". We were blessed with the opportunity to talk and laugh with brothers and sisters we have not seen in a while and meet new ones.

We were blessed with the opportunity to speak to and eat with brothers and sisters that we have not seen in a while as well as get acquainted with new Franciscan brothers and sisters. As is our Spanish custom there was an abundance of food, music, and much Franciscan joy.

El 24 de octubre 2010, celebramos nuestro primer día de convivencia Hispana Franciscana en Santa Ana apoyado por the hospitalidad maravillosa de la recién-establecida fraternidad de Inmaculado Corazón de Maria.

Oímos tres presentaciones sobre la Vocación, la Espiritualidad del Laicado y la Misión de la Iglesia y la Vida en la Fraternidad (los mismos del día de convivencia en ingles.) Estas fueron presentadas por tres alumnas de la Clase para Asistentes Espirituales laicos/Directores de Formación de 2010-2011.

En resumen se nos recordó que fuimos llamados todos a la vida Franciscano directamente por Dios y que como laico nuestra llamada es de atender dentro de y al mundo y que la misión de la Iglesia llega a ser nuestra misión dentro de nuestra espiritualidad seglar; por nuestra profesión Franciscano (una extensión de nuestro Bautismo), somos llamados a la vida fraternal en la Carisma de S. Francisco donde recibimos, vivimos y somos alimentado por nuestra Regla y Constituciones (revisado la luz de los documentos de Vaticano II sobre el Laico) para "ir y construir un mundo más fraternal".

Fuimos bendecidos con la oportunidad de hablar y comer con hermanos y hermanas que nosotros no hemos visto en un tiempo y también conocer nuevos hermanos y a hermanas Franciscanas. Pues como es la costumbre Hispana, hubo comida, música y mucha alegría Franciscana.





Saint Francis Region Retreat, 2011

By Bill Mussatto, Minister, Holy Spirit Fraternity

The Retreat theme was “Francis writes to the Secular Franciscans” and was lead by Fr. Joseph P Chinnici, OFM a leading Franciscan theologian and president of the Franciscan Theologian School at Berkley CA. Over three days he used the first letter St Francis wrote to the Secular Franciscans and helped us look at how it applied to our vocation today. After each of the talks we broke into small groups to share our thoughts about the talk and discuss the questions he provided. It was interesting to hear different perspectives. In one discussion we had a Secular who had never thought of the concept of “neighbor” as someone other than the person next door or who was at least someone they knew personally.

Here is the sermon he gave at our final Mass.

The first reading has that very short line

in it. It says, “There was great joy in the city.”

Why was there great joy? Because the Disciples of Jesus had come and preached the good news. It was as simple as that.

When we see the world, and you see the world as it is, in your families, in your work place, in your home, the big world we read about in the paper, we don't read about a lot of joy. But a Franciscan sees the world the way God sees the world. A Franciscan loves the world the way God loves the world, with great mercy, with great compassion. Today in our world, Christians are, to some extent, given a bad name and sometimes we can wonder, who is the God we are preaching? The second reading tells us, be prepared to give a reason for the hope that is within you. Who is the God that we, as Secular Franciscans, preach? Our God's name is 'Good'. Our God's name is 'Love'. Our God is someone who invites the whole world into life. And I suspect that one

reason we are here this weekend, one reason we have been given our vocations as a Friar Minor or Secular Franciscan is to preach this God in the world so that there might be joy in the city, joy in our families, joy in our work places, joy in the big broad world.

The world needs to see the life of God in our life of faith, demonstrated, made visible, made attractive, made uplifting, made encouraging. The world does not need judgment and condemnation, it has plenty of that, and it does it to itself. The world needs a word of salvation and life. A calling to a Super Abundant God. The world does not need a God who is invisible. Who is far across the sea. Or on top of the mountain. The world needs a God whose love is made visible and clear. Blessed are those who hear the word of God and do it. We have all the tools, We have the path, the Great Commandment(s). We have the privilege our vocation. The task is simple,



let's live in such a way that the world will see who God truly is, a God of goodness and a God of love. That we are ones who love ourselves and love our neighbor. And love this God with our whole heart, our soul, our strength, our mind. That is Francis' letter to the Secular Franciscans.

So we can see why in this life Francis concludes his letter with these words, "Oh how glorious it is to have a holy and great father in heaven. Oh how holy and an consoling to have such a beautiful and wonderful spouse. Oh how holy and loving, wonderful, gratifying, humbling, peace giving, sweet, worthy of love and above all things desirable, to have such a brother and such a son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, who laid down is life for his sheep and prays to his Father always.

And when we rise to difficulty, because the world does not understand us, unless we show it to you, when we run into it, let us remember, He was there first. And glories with us. And we dwell in His Spirit, and God, Creator Redeemer,

Consoler, the one who promises the beatitudes is with us always, even to the end of time. And so Francis says when he runs into difficulty, I have a son and a brother and a savior who prays to his Father and says,

"Holy Father, in your Name save those who you have given me, They were yours and you gave them to me. The words you have given to me I have given to them, and they accepted them and believed in truth that I have come from you and you have sent me. I pray for them and not for the world. Bless and sanctify them. I sanctify myself for them. I pray not only for them but for those who will believe in me through their word that they may be sanctified and be one as we are one. I wish, Father, that where I am they also may be there with me, that they may see my glory in your kingdom."

With a message like that, why would there not be joy in the city. Thank you for being messengers of peace.



Fr. Joseph P Chinnici, OFM. at the St. Francis Region Annual Retreat, 2011, at the Serra Retreat House in Malibu, CA. The theme of the Retreat was "Francis writes to the Secular Franciscans"

QUINQUENNIAL

Secular Franciscans from all over the United States and abroad will, for the 18th time since 1921, come together to celebrate their Franciscan charism and family at the 2012 Quinquennial in Chicago, IL, at the Holiday Inn North Shore, in Skokie, JULY 3-8, 2012. Chicago was the site of the first Quinquennial in 1921. That year, 4300 Secular Franciscans attended. In 2012, some 400 to 600 are expected to converge for the celebration. Programming will be centered around a series of questions that are meant to help Secular Franciscans revisit the vision that Francis left us.

The theme is: *Why Francis? Claim the Gift!* The daily themes are:

- Tuesday: Opening liturgy;
- Wednesday: *Who are you, O Lord?*
- Thursday: *Who am I?;*
- Friday: *Who are the Franciscans?*
- Saturday: *Who are we, the SFO?*

The Order invites all Franciscans to gather. Let us "open our hearts for the full vision of who we are in the United States," said Clare McCluggage, a past national councilor. The Quinquennial is a time to enjoy the company of Secular Franciscans, friars and sisters, and to joyfully engage in conversations that will help us better understand Francis and claim the gift, she said.

Mary Frances Charsky, regional minister of Bl. Kateri Tekakwitha Region, added: "You'll experience the Franciscan identity and spirituality in a meaningful way with brothers and sisters of penance and peace. I look forward with joy to seeing old friends and meeting new Secular Franciscans so that we can continue our Franciscan journey of following gospel life in the spirit of St. Francis."





1st Homily of Deacon Dave Lawrence

Deacon Dave Lawrence delivers his first homily at St. Paschal Baylon Church. Deacon Dave and his wife Cathie Lawrence are Inquirers in the SFO initial formation program through St. Mary of the Angels.

St. Mary of the Angels, an Emerging Community of the SFO in the San Fernando Valley, had great cause for celebration on Sunday, July 17th. They joined in the celebration of Mass in Thousand Oaks as one of their Inquirers served as Deacon at his first Mass at St. Paschal Baylon Church. Just the day before, David Lawrence and 47 other men were ordained Deacons by Los Angeles Archbishop Jose Gomez for the Santa Barbara Region. Deacon Dave and his wife Cathie Lawrence are Inquirers in the SFO initial formation program through St. Mary of the Angels.

Following the Mass, the SFO brothers and sisters were joined by Fr. Joe Scerbo in celebrating this wonderful occasion! A potluck was shared at a local regional park and everyone was able to congratulate the new Deacon and his wife, as well as receive individual first blessings. A beautiful day, in a beautiful setting, for celebrating!



A Prayer of Saint Brendan the Voyager

*Help me to journey beyond the familiar
and into the unknown.*

*Give me the faith to leave old ways
and break fresh ground with You.*

*Christ of the mysteries, I trust You
to be stronger than each storm within me.*

*I will trust in the darkness and know
that my times, even now, are in Your hand.*

*Tune my spirit to the music of heaven,
and somehow, make my obedience count for You.*



FUND-RAISING CRUISE

What better way to raise funds for the Region and have fun while we're doing it? The cruise, which will return \$100 per cabin that we book to our Region, has been changed from the end of November, to **January 22 - 29, 2012**. The port from which we're leaving has also been changed, from Galveston, TX to **New Orleans, LA**. Fr. Steve Gross, O.F.M. Conv., will be on board, so we will be able to celebrate the Eucharist daily. The price of the cabins is a little less than the previous one, and the Region will make a little more per cabin.

You may remember that this project came about as a result of our budget discussions at the 2010 Chapter. It was planned solely because it was a way to make some money for the Region, and since there are many people in the country who do cruise, we might as well make something like this available for them and help ourselves at the same time. If you are interested in going, you should contact the travel agent as soon as possible. The flyer for the cruise can be found on [page 19](#).



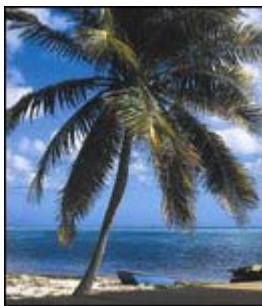


**Join Fr. Stephen Gross OFM Conv. and the Secular Franciscans
on their Caribbean Get-a-way **Sunday, January 22, 2012.**
*Sponsored by St. Francis Region***

You'll board the **Norwegian Spirit** in **New Orleans, Louisiana** and set sail for a fabulous week on the blue waters of the Caribbean. Everyone is welcome; invite your friends and family.

Norwegian Cruise Line ~ Norwegian Spirit				
7-Night Western Caribbean, New Orleans, R/T				
Day	Date	Port	Arv	Dep
Sun	01/22/12	New Orleans, Louisiana - Embark - Time subject to change		05:00 PM
Mon	01/23/12	At Sea		
Tue	01/24/12	Costa Maya, Mexico	10:00 AM	06:00 PM
Wed	01/25/12	Belize City, Belize	08:00 AM	06:00 PM
Thu	01/26/12	Roatan Island, Honduras	08:00 AM	05:00 PM
Fri	01/27/12	Cozumel, Mexico	08:00 AM	05:00 PM
Sat	01/28/12	At Sea		
Sun	01/29/12	New Orleans, Louisiana - Disembark - Time subject to change	08:00 AM	

CruiseOne will donate \$100.00 to Secular Franciscans for every cabin booked.



INTERIOR	OCEAN VIEW / PROMINADE	BALCONY
From	From	From
\$595	\$695	\$925

Rate is Per-Person based on double occupancy.
Rate Includes cruise, port fees, taxes, and **a bottle of wine in every room.**
Father Steve will be celebrating Mass daily
Airfare, Transfers and Travel protection insurance are extra.

**Only \$250 per person will hold your stateroom.
Everyone is welcome.
For best choice of staterooms, call Mark today!
Mark Furlan at CruiseOne
949-716-3020 or 1-866-716-3020
mfurlan@CruiseOne.com**



2011 Region Gathering



This year's Regional Gathering was more social than academic, think of a large picnic with hundreds of your closest friends, that you haven't seen for a year. It was held in the Mile Square Regional Park in Fountain Valley. Well we had a beautiful setting. In addition to an abundance of food from various cultures we had games. It was a good time and full of Franciscan Fraternal joy.





Visiting Korean Provincial Minister, OFM

A luncheon meeting was held between our Region and the visiting Korean Provincial Minister of the OFMs on Friday, August 19, 2011, in Los Angeles. From left to right, Br. Bob Brady, OFM, Provincial Spiritual Assistant for the OFMs in Santa Barbara Province; Bob Herbelin, SFO; Rock DeSpain, SFO; Sylvia Paoli, SFO; Fr. Francis Ki, OFM, Provincial Minister from Korea; Augustin Lee, SFO; and Rosalia Kim Moon, SFO.



St. Mary of the Angels Patronal Mass

We had wonderful evening Mass to celebrate the Patronal Feast of *St. Mary Queen of the Angels* in the San Fernando Valley on her feast day, August 2nd. Our Celebrant was Fr. Steve Gross, OFM, Conv. Joining the members of St. Mary of the Angels emerging community were brothers and sisters from neighboring Fraternities of St. Thomas More, St. Francis and St. Joseph's. As usual, Secular Franciscans gathered for cake and refreshments following the Mass!



YOU, TOO, CAN HELP!

Two fraternities in the St. Francis Region received large bequests in recent years from members who remembered the fraternity in their Wills. It was a gift of \$20,000 from one of those fraternities that started our scholarship fund, without which attendance at many seminars and workshops and speakers brought to the Region would not have been possible. We would like to encourage all of you to remember St. Francis Region in your Wills. Any amount left to the Region - whether large or small - will be gratefully received and very much appreciated, as prices continue to rise but incomes do not. In order to be effective within the Region, the REC has to be able to reimburse its members for out-of-pocket expenses, such as making copies, gas mileage for driving all over the Region, for paper and supplies, and various other expenses that go with serving a Region with almost 900 members in it. If your fraternity tends to have financial problems, you might consider leaving part to your fraternity and part to the Region.

Under the old rule, all professed members were required to have a Will. That provision is not in the Rule of 1978, but it is found in our General Constitutions (Art. 23.3) in response to Art. 19 of our Rule, and states the reason why we should have a Will. Therefore, the reason still exists. As people of peace, we want to make it as easy as possible for our loved ones when we pass on to our heavenly reward. Part of what we can do is to make sure that we have made it very clear to all the family where our possessions (money, houses, cars, things IN the house, and other possessions) are to be distributed. If we do not, our heirs will quite likely end up in court, and then, no matter who we wanted to receive those items, the ones who will get most of what we left will be the lawyers. So we all should have a clearly stated and up-to-date Will.

We are only asking that when you make or update your Will, you consider leaving something to St. Francis Region. A bequest is very simple to make. You need only insert language in your Will or Trust as follows:

“I give the sum of _____ DOLLARS [written out in words] (_____) [written in figures [OR, in the alternative] _____ PERCENT [written out in words] (_____) [written in numbers] of the residue of my estate to St. Francis Region of the Secular Franciscan Order, a charitable religious organization, for its general purposes. The Region is represented by the Minister of the Region, whose name and address can be obtained from the National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan order in the United States. Their contact information is on their website at <http://www.NAFRA-sfo.org> .

You need to know the difference between leaving a certain sum and leaving a percentage of the residue. When you leave a certain sum, it is a “specific bequest” and will be given to the beneficiary before the remainder of your estate is distributed. When you leave a percentage of the residue, the percentage will be taken from what is left after all of your specific bequests have been made. For example, if at your death your estate was worth \$100,000, if you left \$40,000 to the Region, with the remainder to be divided equally among your four children, the four children would divide \$60,000 - what’s left AFTER the \$40,000 was paid. If you left 20% of your estate to each of your four children, and left 10% of the residue to the Region, each child would get \$20,000, and the Region would get 10% of \$20,000 - the amount left after the children get their shares, and that 10% would be \$2,000. So if your estate decreases as the years go by, you can see the difference that the words of the bequest would make in how much everyone actually received. For a much more detailed explanation, you need to talk to a lawyer skilled at writing Wills and Trusts.



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The Joy of Francis

I beg of you — the SFO must not and cannot trail behind . . . the other components of our family. The SFO has to reclaim . . . its place in these family events . . . I do believe that the First Order, the Second Order and the Third Order Regular at all levels need the knowledge that we can offer, as people fully immersed in the ordinary circumstances and problems related to work, family, politics, education and science, including situations of extreme poverty and all kinds of misery.

Minister General Encarnación del Pozo

